

Coins

Instant information: A Yeoman service

By Roger Boye

AFTER BUYING an ice cream cone last month, a Skokie man received in change one of the most unusual Lincoln cents of his collecting career.

"A tiny piece of cloth was attached to the coin," he explained. "At first I thought someone had glued it to the penny, but I soon discovered that the cloth was actually imbedded into the metal."

As other collectors who find such oddities, the man wanted to know if there is a "quick way to get information" about his coin.

Fortunately for him and many others, the newest edition of R.S. Yeoman's "Red Book"—the world's most popular coin reference—includes a special nine-page section on mint errors. The Skokie man would learn, for example, that his freak coin could be worth as much as \$25.

As with past editions, the 1980 "Red Book" also includes updated retail prices for all United States coins in several condition categories, along with other important collecting data. But the mint error section is new this year, an official acknowledgement of the popularity of that specialized branch of numismatics.

Most coin and hobby stores are selling "A Guide Book of United States Coins" (dubbed "Red Book" by most

collectors) for \$3.95, the same price as last year's edition. More than 15 million "Red Books" have been printed since the first copy was published in 1946.

THE NEW edition of another basic coin reference—"Standard Catalog of World Coins," by Chester L. Krause and Clifford Mishler—also has been released this summer.

Known to collectors as the "phone book" because of its huge size, the 1980 sixth edition lists retail prices for almost all the coins minted in the world in the last 200 years. That's more than 71,000 different types of coins.

The 1,856-page volume is available in most hobby stores, or may be ordered for \$24.50 from the publisher, Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54945.

KRAUSE HAS also recently published the sixth edition of "Guidebook of Franklin Mint Issues," the most complete reference book ever written on the nearly 20,000 different collectibles produced by the world's largest private mint.

The 448-page guidebook includes market valuations and mintage figures for nearly every Franklin Mint item made from 1965 through 1978. For a copy, send \$9.50 to Krause Publications (see address above).